



*The History of*  
**ST. DOMINIC'S PARISH**  
*Washington, D. C.*  
*1852—1952*



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## *Dedication*

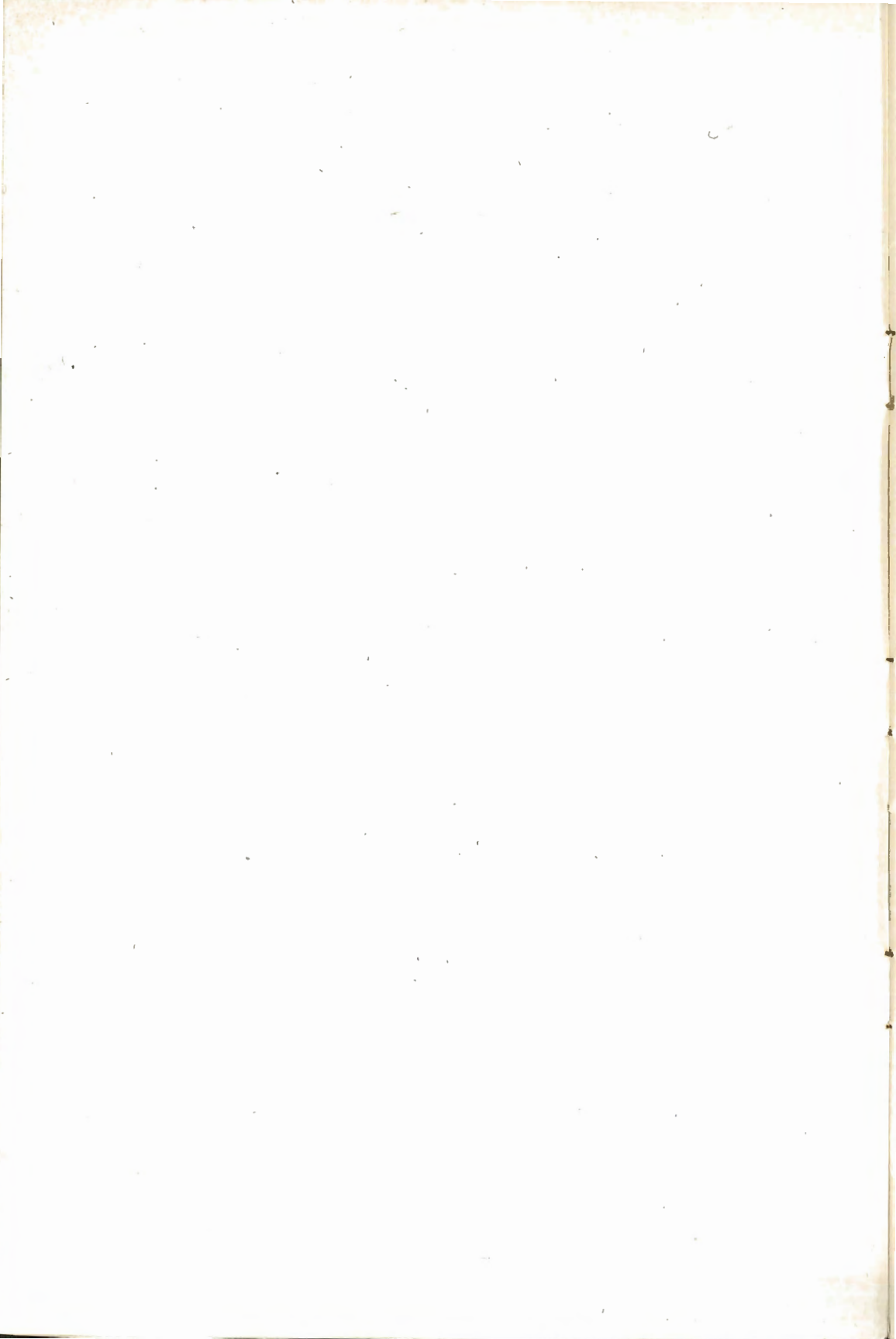
We, the present Fathers, Brothers, Sisters, and Parishioners of Old St. Dominic's, on our One-Hundredth Anniversary, solemnly and sincerely dedicate this work to those who have gone before us and to those who will come after us. To the former we can say neither more nor less than "Thank you"; to the latter we say, "Carry on".







ST. DOMINIC'S SCHOOL, PRIORY, AND CHURCH





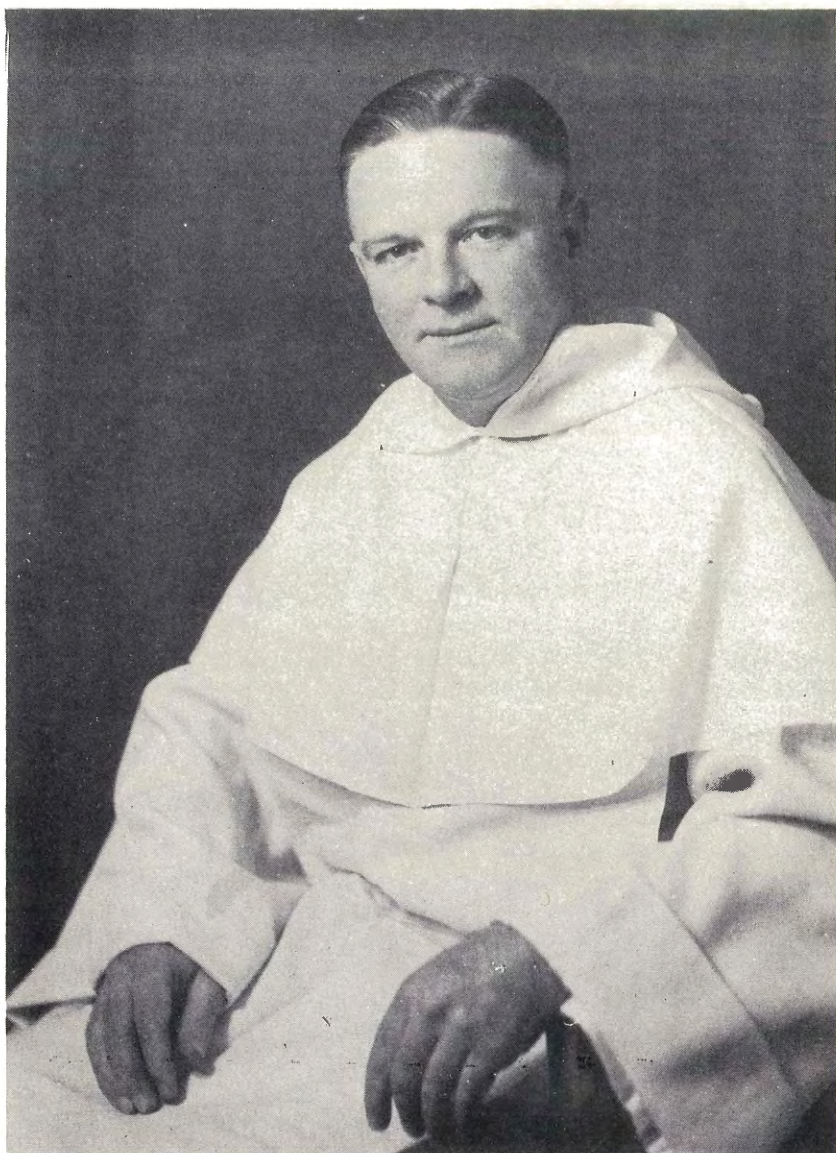


His Excellency Patrick A. O'Boyle, D.D., Archbishop of Washington



Very Reverend T. S. McDermott, O.P., Provincial





Very Reverend Andrew M. Whelan, O.P., Prior and Pastor



V. Rev. Francis X. Finnegan, O.P.



Rev. Raymond R. King, O.P.



Rev. Raymond J. Dewdney, O.P.



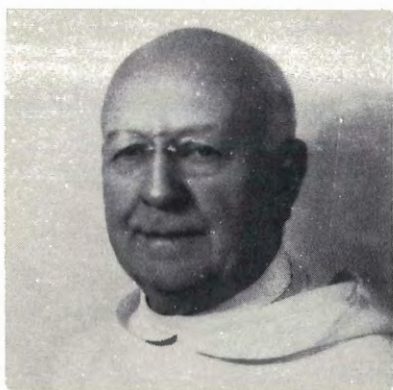
Rev. George G. Maley, O.P.



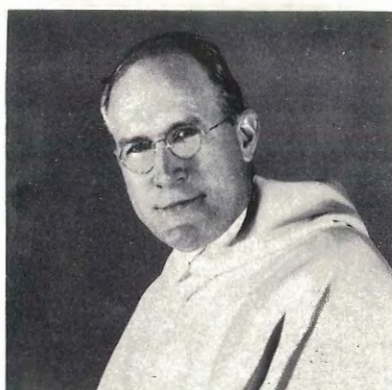
Brother Anthony Bucci, O.P.

PRESENT COMMUNITY AT ST. DOMINIC'S  
ASSIGNED TO PARISH AND HIGH SCHOOL





V. Rev. Raymond Meagher, O.P. 1910-1913



V. Rev. Raphael M. Burke, O.P., 1929-1934



Rev. Robt. P. Carroll, O.P., 1933-1936



V. Rev. Wm. D. Marrin, O.P., 1936-1941



Rev. Raymond J. Dewdney, O.P., 1942-1945



Rev. Bernard P. Shaffer, O.P., 1945-1951

## EX-PRIORS AND PASTORS



OLD MATTINGLY HOME





BEFORE THE FIRE, 1929



THE SANCTUARY AND ALTAR AT PRESENT





ST. DOMINIC'S PRIORY



*The History of*  
**ST. DOMINIC'S PARISH**  
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1852—1952

As far as can be ascertained from existing records, the earliest Dominican to labor in the State of Maryland was the Rev. Francis Bodkin, O. P., of the Irish Province who came to America in 1795 with the intention of living in the warm climate of the South because of his health. When he arrived in Baltimore Archbishop Carroll persuaded him to remain and placed him in Hagerstown to care for that section and the surrounding missions. He remained here for a year, but when his health failed to improve, he went on to the Diocese of New Orleans in 1796.

The Rev. John C. Fenwick, O. P., a native of Maryland who had gone to England for his education and joined the English Dominican Province, returned in 1800 as a missionary. From 1804 until his death in 1815 he lived with the Jesuit Fathers at St. Thomas Manor (now St. Ignatius Church), Chapel Point, in Charles County. Later in 1804 two more English Dominicans, the Rev. Edward D. Fenwick, O. P., the future first bishop of Cincinnati and a nephew of Rev. John C. Fenwick, O. P., together with Rev. Robert A. Angier, O. P., joined their lone confrere with the intention of establishing the Order in Maryland. Archbishop Carroll had made previous commitments prior to their arrival to have them labor in the mission fields of Kentucky. In the summer of 1806, Fr. Edward Fenwick started for Kentucky, but during the intervening period he cared for the Piscataway mission in Prince Georges County. Late in 1807, Fr. Angier left for Ken-

tucky, but in the meantime he too was laboring in Bryantown and the missions in Charles County. In poor health Fr. Angier was to return from Kentucky in 1816 and resume his activities in his former mission at Bryantown, Mattawoman and the present Waldorf. There is some evidence that Piscataway was also under his care. He remained here until he returned to England in 1825.

Cumberland and Friendsville (then called Blooming Rose) in western Maryland were occasionally visited between 1819 and 1822 by Frs. Edward D. Fenwick, O. P., and Nicholas D. Young, O. P., from their own mission fields in the west.

### THE DOMINICANS IN WASHINGTON

Early in 1852, Archbishop Kenrick who had learned to know the Dominican Fathers, for he too spent the early years of his priestly life in the Kentucky missions, invited them to make a permanent foundation in his see. While awaiting the official documents from the Holy See and the Dominican Master General, a plea was sent to Archbishop Kenrick from the residents of southwest Washington asking for a church in their section of the city. This was then known as "The Island" because it was bounded by the Potomac River, the old Washington Canal (now Constitution Avenue), which ran as far as Sixth Street and there connected with the James Creek Canal which followed the line of Canal Street down to the Anacostia River, thus making it an island, part of L'Enfant's plans for the Capital's streets and waterways. Giving ear to this request he apportioned this section to the Dominicans for the establishment of a parish. Late in 1852, the Dominican Provincial, the Very Rev. Matthew A. O'Brien, O. P., sent Rev. George A. J. Wilson, O. P., to organize the parish. His priestly ministrations began at once for the parish records show that the first baptismal entry was made on April 16, 1853 and is that of Elizabeth Frances, daughter of Henry W. and Rachael Wathen; Ann Tull was the godmother. The first marriage was that between William Walsh and Margaret Donahoe under date of July 30,



1853. The first death was that of William Donovan, May 2, 1853, who was buried in St. Patrick's Graveyard (where now stands Woodward and Lothrop) on May 4, 1853.

Ground for the new church, school and convent was purchased from Georgetown College, the half block on the western side of Sixth Street between E and F Streets. Rev. Nicholas Dominic Young, O. P., came to Washington in the spring of 1853 to assist Fr. Wilson and help select the site for the erection of the new church, the corner of the property at Sixth and F Streets, where once his grandfather's barn had stood. Sod was broken for the project on July 1, 1853. While the church and rectory were under construction, George Mattingly, a wealthy and active parishioner, offered his home as living quarters for the two priests and arranged his parlor that Mass could be said for the little flock. The house still stands at 477 F Street, though somewhat changed by the ravages of time. Before the completion of the building Fr. Young was replaced by Rev. Sydney A. Clarkson, O. P.

The church and rectory were small, plain brick structures ready for occupancy in the early spring of 1854. Archbishop Kenrick was unable to attend the blessing and opening of the new church, but he authorized Fr. Wilson to do so on March 19, 1854, dedicating it to the service of God under the title and patronage of Saint Dominic. The Rev. Charles H. Stonestreet, S. J., Provincial of the eastern province of the Jesuit Fathers and later in 1858 the eighth president of Gonzaga College, preached on the occasion. It was a day of great rejoicing for the Catholics of southwest Washington for they had a church of their own within a short distance from their homes; the Dominican Fathers could rejoice with them for this was their first foundation east of the Alleghany Mountains.

In point of age St. Dominic's ranks sixth in Washington. First comes Holy Trinity, Georgetown, established in 1788; next was St. Patrick's in 1794. St. Mary's, commonly known as the Barry Chapel, since built through the interest and at the expense of James Barry, dated from 1806, but it has long ceased to exist,

and its corner stone is embedded in the wall of the Holy Name Chapel of the present St. Dominic's Church. The Barry Chapel stood east of South Capitol Street, two blocks south of the present St. Vincent de Paul's Church. St. Peter's Church on Capitol Hill, replaced the Barry Chapel in 1820 to rank third in point of age. It was followed by St. Matthew's in 1840 and St. Mary Mother of God in 1845; then came St. Dominic's, sixth, in 1852. The Young and Queen Chapels, the latter on the site where now stands St. Francis de Sales' Church, Langdon, were not taken into account since they were private oratories, although the Catholics of the area went to them for Mass and the reception of the sacraments.

A letter of the time describes the first St. Dominic's Church, a simple brick structure of Gothic design: "A neat and beautiful building . . . Its site is handsome, standing as it does about the center of the Island, in full view of the Capitol . . . The dimensions of the church are about seventy by forty feet. The interior has been finished in handsome style, with a rich cornice and ceiling."

Rev. Nicholas D. Young, O. P., who had been present for the breaking of the sod for the church, but denied the pleasure of seeing the dedication of the first Dominican foundation on his native Maryland soil, was recalled late in 1854 or early in 1855 to add his experience to the task of clearing the church of its debt. In 1856, Fr. Wilson, the founder and first pastor left; and Fr. Nicholas D. Young succeeded him in office. In September of that same year Archbishop Kenrick asked him to take charge of two missions in Prince Georges County, and upon his resignation to accept this new work, Fr. Sydney A. Clarkson was appointed pastor. Rev. Nicholas R. Young, O. P., a nephew of Fr. Nicholas D. Young was added to the little community, and he became superior in December of 1857 when Fr. Clarkson was elected Prior of St. Rose Priory in Springfield, Kentucky. Rev. John T. Nealis, O. P., and Rev. James V. Edelen, O. P., came to Washington, but remained only a short time, the latter's place being taken by Rev. Matthew F. McGrath, O. P., who labored for more

than five years in the growing parish. In August, 1859, Rev. John A. Bokel, O. P., came to St. Dominic's to replace Father Nicholas R. Young who was leaving for Europe. He remained only a year, having been elected Prior of St. Rose in Kentucky, but after the expiration of his office there he was to return to Washington to play a conspicuous part in the history of St. Dominic's. In August of 1859 the Revs. Jeremiah P. Turner, O. P., and Joseph A. Schuerman, O. P., were added to the community, but unfortunately Fr. Schuerman's priestly life was too short, for he contracted smallpox during the epidemic then raging in the city and died April 2, 1862, the first of the Dominicans to die in St. Dominic's rectory.

The influx of Catholics into the Island increased now that a church was present, and this necessitated the enlargement of the original building. No parish records show exactly when this work was done or under whose term of office, but it is thought to be the work of Fr. Nicholas R. Young, O. P. An addition of twenty five feet was made at the altar end of the church.

In the fall of 1860, Rev. Charles D. Bowling, O. P., succeeded Fr. Bokel as pastor. The records also show a Rev. Constantine L. Egan, O. P., present at St. Dominic's in April of 1862, but from September 1863 until the end of the Civil War he served as chaplain in the Ninth Massachusetts Volunteers in the Army of the Potomac. During periods of furlough his name appears on the records, indicating that he returned to St. Dominic's to assist his brethren.

In September of 1863, the founder of the parish, Fr. Wilson, returned; but his stay was of short duration for he was elected Prior of St. Rose in Kentucky just two months later. In June of that same year Rev. Peter C. Coll, O. P., was assigned to St. Dominic's where he was to remain for about eleven years and become one of the most ardent advocates for the new church which was soon to be needed. In October of 1863, Fr. Bokel, who previously had been pastor, was to return and it was during his administration that work on the new church was undertaken.

## THE SECOND CHURCH

Twelve years after the original church had been built and later enlarged, it was found to be inadequate and on April 10, 1865, the Fathers met in council and voted to undertake the erection of a new church. On the following Sunday a meeting of the parishioners was held after the Vesper Services to present the idea to them. So spontaneous was the response that it is said Fr. Bokel and his assistant, Fr. Ralph, collected some ten thousand dollars in pledges before the meeting adjourned. Archbishop Spalding and the Dominican Provincial readily gave their approval and the preparation for the fund-raising endeavors commenced. The original plans called for a brick structure 190 x 81 feet, with side chapels and a 200-foot tower. Mr. P. C. Keeley, an architect from Brooklyn, drew the plans and was to direct the construction, but several months elapsed before he could come to Washington. In the meantime it had been decided to use, instead of the red brick, a gray granite which was to be obtained from the nearby quarries at Port Deposit in Maryland. Other changes before construction began enlarged its dimensions to 200 x 95 feet, and extended the tower to 250 feet.

Ground was broken for the enterprise by the pastor, the Rev. John A. Bokel, O. P., on November 9, 1865 and on Sunday afternoon just ten days later, Rev. Nicholas D. Young, O. P., with the authorization of Archbishop Spalding, blessed and laid the cornerstone. Present for the occasion were many of the clergy of the city. The Hon. Richard Wallach, then Mayor of Washington, honored the occasion with his presence. Rev. Francis E. Boyle, Pastor of St. Peter's, preached the sermon. Embedded in the cornerstone was a sealed glass vessel, in which were enclosed copies of the city papers and leading Catholic publications of the time. It also contained a parchment in Latin of which the following is a translation:

*"A. D. November 19, 1865,*

*Pius IX being Head of the Holy Roman Catholic Church; the Most*



*Rev. Martin Spalding, Archbishop of Baltimore; the Most Rev. Vincent Alexander Jandel, Master General of the Order of Friars Preachers; the Very Rev. William Dominic O'Carroll, O. S. D., Superior of the Province of St. Joseph; Andrew Johnson, President of the United States; and Richard Wallach, Mayor of Washington, D. C.:*

*This temple, sacred to the memory of Saint Dominic, Founder of the Order of Friars Preachers, is commenced anew, the former having become too small for the increased congregation, according to the plans drawn by P. C. Keeley, Esq., under the care and management of the local Superior, Rev. John Albert Bokel, O.S.D., who has as his assistants Very Rev. N. D. Young, O. S. D., ex-provincial, Rev. J. H. Lynch, O. S. D., Rev. H. P. Ralph, O. S. D., and Rev. P. C. Coll, O. S. D."*

Work on the superstructure continued until the walls were twenty five feet high, and then was suspended due to the depression which set in after the Civil War. Since the new church was being built on the opposite corner of the property at Sixth and E Streets, the congregation was forced back into its old crowded quarters, the combination church and school, which they occupied until the completion of the new church in June, 1875.

In October of 1869, the Very Rev. Francis J. Dunn, O. P., was elected Provincial of the Dominicans and one of his first works was to order the completion of St. Dominic's which his predecessor had so unduly delayed. But times were still hard and the next two years were spent in raising funds, and it was not until March of 1872 that work was actually resumed. It was the intention of the Fathers to have their new church dedicated on the feast of St. Thomas Aquinas, March 7, but the interior was not completed. However, the first Mass was celebrated ten days later on the feast of St. Patrick. Fr. Fortune sang the first Mass, being assisted by Frs. Power and Sheridan as deacon and subdeacon. Very Rev. John A. Rotchford, O. P., provincial at the time, preached the sermon.

By Sunday, June 13, 1875 it was ready for the dedication ceremonies which were performed by the Most Rev. James Roosevelt Bayley, then Archbishop of Baltimore, and an ancestor of our later Presidents. The Archbishop sang the Solemn Pontifical Mass, assisted by Rev. Francis E. Boyle, Pastor of St. Peter's, and Rev. John McNally, Pastor of St. Stephen's, as deacon and sub-deacon. The Dominican Provincial, Fr. Rotchford, was assistant priest while the Rev. Charles I. White, D. D., Pastor of St. Matthew's, and the Rev. P. F. Healy, S. J., President of Georgetown College, were deacons of honor. Rev. Felix Barotti, Pastor of the Chapel of Bl. Martin de Porres (now St. Augustine's), acted as Master of Ceremonies. The Most Rev. Thomas A. Becker, Bishop of Wilmington, preached at the dedication. That same evening Solemn Vespers were held at which the Most Rev. Thomas L. Grace, O. P., Bishop of St. Paul, officiated. His Eminence Cardinal Gibbons, then Bishop of Richmond, preached on the occasion. Fr. Bokel, the pastor of St. Dominic's, said a few words of thanks to all who had assisted in the labors of erecting the new church. Constructed at an outlay of \$200,000 it represented a gigantic task for the times.

Father Rotchford had completed his term as Provincial and now succeeded Fr. Fortune here as pastor. While the debt was still enormous he undertook to build a new rectory for the fathers. The old one was too small for the growing community and now too far removed from the church. Moreover, the use of this old house at 609 F Street was sorely needed for the overcrowded school. The cornerstone of the rectory was laid on March 17, 1879. The Rev. Peter C. Coll, O. P., supplanted Fr. Rotchford the following year as pastor, and now that all the building projects had been completed, he could devote more of his time, than during his previous stay at St. Dominic's, to the spiritual welfare of the flock.

### THE FIRE OF 1885

The Rev. Edward D. Donnelly, O. P., became superior and pastor late in 1884, but disaster was destined to make his term



of office a sorrowful one, for on the morning of March 12, 1885, fire broke out and made such headway that it was impossible to extinguish. Assisted by the crowd that gathered they managed to save most of the fixtures such as stations, statues, vestments and sacred vessels. Rev. Vincent Flood, O. P., of the Irish Province, and later Archbishop of Trinidad, then on a visit to Washington, removed the Blessed Sacrament from the tabernacle. The solid granite walls were undamaged, but the interior was completely gutted. The roof remained, but it was badly damaged. The twenty-foot rose window and some smaller ones in the sanctuary were broken in the early effort to reach the flames. This disaster was a serious blow to the heavily indebted church, but scarcely had the debris cooled than the parishioners began to rebuild. In the meantime the old church was again used for divine services. By October 4, 1885, Rosary Sunday, the restored church was reopened with great rejoicing. Just as in its construction the spirit of loyalty and devotion of the parishioners was so inspiring, so it likewise characterized the period of reconstruction.

### THE PRIORY

At the Provincial Chapter held in October, 1885, the Master General of the Order was petitioned to raise the status of St. Dominic's from that of a vicariate to a formal house, a canonical Convent or Priory, for now the number of Fathers stationed here would warrant the daily chanting of Divine Office and the other conventual obligations. Rev. Edward D. Donnelly, O. P., who was then pastor, was appointed its first Prior. Three years later he was succeeded by Very Rev. Peter A. Dinahan, O. P., who erected the present spire on the church, intended as a temporary one, but never replaced by the one designed by the architect in the original plans. Other early Priors were the Very Revs. Wm. F. Linahan, O. P., John C. Kent, O. P., John P. Moran, O. P., a return term of Fr. Kent, John A. Hinch, O. P., and then a native son of the parish, Timothy P. O'Rourke, O. P. He was succeeded in May, 1910, by Very Rev. Raymond Meagher, O. P., later Provincial

for many years and at the present living in the Priory again which is so filled with memories of a glorious past. He was followed by Very Rev. George I. Conlon, O. P., and it was during his pastorate that the church was finally cleared of debt, removing the last obstacle to its consecration. On October 10, 1919, the Most Rev. John T. McNicholas, O. P., Bishop of Duluth and later Archbishop of Cincinnati, performed the solemn rite of consecration. On Sunday, October 12, with Cardinal Gibbons presiding, the Most Rev. Thomas J. Shahan, Rector of the Catholic University, celebrated a Solemn Pontifical Mass of thanksgiving. The Very Rev. Raymond Meagher, O. P., Provincial, and former pastor of St. Dominic's, preached the sermon on the festive occasion.

### THE FIRE OF 1929

After the consecration of the church progress and development continued until St. Dominic's became one of the most active and frequented parishes in the city. With a seating capacity of 1400 it was not unusual to have an assembly greater than could be handled. But another disaster was to mar this record after only ten years. On the morning of February 24, 1929 the parishioners who were coming to Mass discovered another fire which had broken out under the roof, the cause of which has never been definitely determined. From the accounts of the Washington newspapers, the fire was apparently discovered about 7:15 and by the time the Fire Department arrived and pulled the hoses into the tower above the baptistry and main tower, the entire roof was ablaze. Rev. Michael Barrett, O. P., removed the Blessed Sacrament from the tabernacle; later he left for China as a missionary, but is now back in Washington serving as chaplain for the Penal Institutions of the District.

The parishioners were assembled again by their pastor, Very Rev. Raphael M. Burke, O. P., to undertake the tremendous task of rebuilding for the fourth time. As had been the case 44 years before, no time was lost in the reconstruction. An account in the Washington Post of March 31, 1930 reported:

"Renovation work was viewed for the first time yesterday at reoccupation ceremonies. The only church of Gothic design in Washington, St. Dominic's has a seating capacity of 1400, and is said to be the largest in the District. The organ was entirely reconstructed, a marble floor supplants the old wooden one, and new frescoes have been made."

At these ceremonies, the Most Rev. Michael J. Curley, Archbishop of Baltimore, presided. Present in the sanctuary was the Most Rev. Thomas Shahan of the Catholic University. The Mass was celebrated by Very Rev. Raphael M. Burke, O. P., the pastor, and assisted by Very Rev. John A. Cowan, O. P., long associated with the parish, as deacon, while Rev. Jeremiah Fitzgerald, O. P., of Providence College and a native son of the parish, acted as sub-deacon. After the ceremony Archbishop Curley addressed a few words to the congregation commending them upon the spirit of zeal and faith which had urged them to this fourth great undertaking in the parish.

It was at this time that the altar was moved far back into the sanctuary to give ample room for the many future ordinations of young priests of the Dominican Order which were to follow in succeeding years.

Father Burke was succeeded as Prior of the Convent and Pastor of the church in July of 1933 by Very Rev. Robert P. Carroll, O. P., whose whole term of office was principally occupied in reducing the debt so recently incurred by the disaster of the fire. After the completion of his term of office he was supplanted by Very Rev. Wm. D. Marrin, O. P., in July of 1936. During Fr. Marrin's term great external activity was exercised in the parish. In April of the following year, after the necessary documents had been received, the National Shrine of the Holy Rosary was established officially in St. Dominic's Church. The Baltimore Review then stated:

*"The paintings are the work of Mario Sgambati, a worthy representative of the Royal Academy of Arts in Naples,*

*where he spent many years among the masters. His distinctive work is known throughout the eastern part of the United States."*

These paintings are preserved in the Shrine today forming a warm background for the Rosary Group statue, the heart and center of the shrine.

Outdoors, as well as in, improvements were made, such as the paving of the playground, painting of both church and school, and other projects of modernization.

The Very Rev. Raymond J. Dewdney, O. P., succeeded Fr. Marrin in office in January of 1942 and it was during his term that the last of the debt was finally paid, a burden which was a constant worry for by this time the physical aspects of southwest Washington were showing signs of marked depreciation, and St. Dominic's was suffering as a result.

In January of 1945, Very Rev. Bernard P. Shaffer, O. P., succeeded to office. During his pastorship much work had to be undertaken which could no longer be ignored. The Priory was completely rewired, replastered and repainted; new and modern furniture replaced the articles which had served so well, some since the turn of the century. The church edifice shared as well from his ministrations and the account of his work in the schools is found in the section devoted to our school.

Very Rev. Andrew M. Whelan, O. P., who formerly had been sub-prior, succeeded Fr. Shaffer in April, 1951 and holds the office of Prior and Pastor as we celebrate the centenary of St. Dominic's.

### THE EARLY MISSIONS

Shortly after the Dominican Fathers came to Washington they were to extend their work to the surrounding missions. In October of 1856, St. Mary's in Prince George's County, which formerly had been cared for by the Jesuit Fathers, was placed under their charge. Father Dominic Young, O. P., was then appointed its pastor. In this territory had once stood the historic



Boon's Chapel in which the first bishop of the United States, the Most Rev. John Carroll, had been baptized. It had now fallen into decay and was no longer used for divine services, which were being held in a private home, most likely that of Henry S. Mitcail, who offered to buy a site of land for the erection of a church. This site was not far distant from where Boon's Chapel had stood. The cornerstone of this simple frame church was laid on June 5, 1859 by Father Young himself, assisted by Rev. E. Q. S. Waldron of St. Matthew's Church in Washington, who also preached the sermon.

Five months later, on October 23, Father Young was delegated by Archbishop Kenrick to bless and dedicate the church to the Mother of God under the title of the Most Holy Rosary. On this occasion he was assisted by the Very Rev. Joseph A. Kelly, O. P., the Dominican Provincial, who also preached the sermon. Father Young remained on these missions for several years, although he resigned as pastor late in 1860. Approaching the age of seventy, the long rides between Marlboro, Holy Rosary and Washington were beginning to tell on his health. He was succeeded by Rev. J. P. Turner, O. P., who cared for the missions until November of 1862 when he left Washington. Rev. P. C. Coll, O. P., was then appointed to care for them.

Another mission which the Fathers from St. Dominic's took charge of for some years was St. Ignatius in Oxon Hill. Previously it had been cared for from Alexandria, but in 1865 it passed into the hands of the Dominican Fathers until 1869 when these missions were given to the Carmelite Fathers who were seeking to establish their Order in the United States.

Though not strictly a mission, another charge the early Fathers had was the chaplaincy at the National Soldiers' Home which was founded in 1851. They cared for this institution until the close of 1882 when St. Anthony's parish was established in Brookland and it was then cared for from there. Since then, however, it has been returned to the care of the Dominican Fathers, but it is now attended from the House of Studies at the Catholic University.

## PAROCHIAL ORGANIZATIONS

Practically from its inception St. Dominic's became a center for parochial missions and retreats throughout the eastern part of the country. Before regular mission bands were established, this work was carried on by the Fathers who cared for the parish. This accounts for the irregularity with which the names of some of the priests appear on the church records. But this did not mean that the spiritual activity at home suffered, for we find that from the very beginning the religious societies and sodalities were formed and became very active. Among the strictly religious organizations which date from the founding of the parish are the Holy Name Society, the Blessed Virgin Sodality, the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament, the Rosary Society and the Altar Society; and for the welfare of the children, the St. Thomas Sodality and the Blessed Imelda Sodality.

Before the founding of St. Vincent de Paul parish in 1901, the colored Catholics of the southwest were cared for by St. Dominic's. This accounts for the existence in the early days of the St. Benedict's Benevolent Society, a St. Dominic's and a St. John's Benevolent Society for their welfare both spiritual and temporal.

In the spirit of their founder the Fathers at once established the Third Order so that the devout faithful living in the world might share the benefits of the Order. Chapters for both men and women, white and colored, flourished from the very foundation of the parish and exist to this day. Likewise from the outset the St. Vincent de Paul Society was founded and still continues one of the largest and most active in the city.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Like the first divine services, the first classes of Sunday School were held in the home of George Mattingly before the first church was begun. After the building of the church the classes were held in the basement until 1886 when the parish hall was built. Before it was possible to secure Sisters to teach the youth of the parish,



this work was faithfully carried out by lay teachers, several of whom served for over thirty years. Two in particular whose names deserve to be perpetuated in connection with the Sunday School work of the early days are Mr. George Petty, who taught from 1864 until his death in 1898, and Mrs. Sarah Wise who taught from 1864 until her death in 1913. Long years of conscientious labor also mark for special commendation the colored Catholic ladies who taught Sunday School for the little ones of their race in the early days of St. Dominic's.

### THE PAROCHIAL SCHOOL

When the first church was built it was so planned that the basement could be used for a school. High ceilings, large windows and ample ventilation were provided for this purpose. The school was opened and blessed together with the opening of the church. From the beginning of the school until 1868 all the classes were conducted by lay teachers both men and women. Because of the difficulty in obtaining male teachers, after a few years women were employed exclusively. The first two members of the parish to enter religion, the Misses Sophia and Elizabeth Rumph, taught in both the Sunday School and the parochial school before becoming Dominican nuns.

In the summer of 1868, four Dominican Sisters from St. Mary's, Somerset, Ohio, who had volunteered to establish a community in Washington, arrived and opened an academy at Sixth and C Streets, and took charge of the parochial school. They were assisted, however, by the lay teachers who remained to share their work. In 1869 they moved to Virginia Avenue, between Sixth and Seventh Streets, where they were joined by three Sisters from St. Cathrine's, Springfield, Kentucky. The Academy of the Sacred Heart of Mary was then obtained at Eighth and C Streets and occupied until July of 1870. The Sisters opened a novitiate, but vocations did not come to them in proportion to their needs; and in 1882 they affiliated themselves with the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, Wisconsin who still have charge of St. Dominic's school.

When the new church was completed in 1875, the school could expand and use both floors of the old building, which was the case until it was torn down in 1886 and the present combination building of school and parish hall was erected.

By 1922, the enrollment had increased to such proportions that it was necessary to make an addition of eight classrooms to the school. Under the direction of the Very Rev. Walter G. Scanlon, O. P., then pastor, this addition was made to the rear of the school and opened for class for the school year of 1923. This new addition gave them ample room, but another difficulty was soon to be encountered. Because of economic conditions it was felt that too few of the children were getting no more than the elementary education and it was decided to open a high school for them.

Under the direction of Very Rev. Wm. D. Marrin, O. P., the first year of high school classes and a commercial course were opened in September of 1939 with plans for adding the second year course the following term. This arrangement continued until September of 1948 when Very Rev. Bernard P. Shaffer, O. P., added the second and third year to the course. This our centenary year will find the present pastor, Very Rev. Andrew M. Whelan, O. P., adding the last year to complete the full high school course for the youth of St. Dominic's.

As an index for the names of the Dominican Fathers who have labored at St. Dominic's during the past one hundred years, we affix this list. It will be noted that in the later years the names of priests who were stationed here in the capacity of missionaries and who made their headquarters here have been omitted. Among these we could mention the Very Rev. Paul W. Doane, O. P., P. G. who has been stationed here since 1931 to the present time. The other Fathers' assignments were of so much shorter duration that they were scarcely known by the parishioners since their activities on the missions kept them away from the Convent most of the time.

The names of many faithful lay brothers have likewise not been included. Brother Joseph Huggins who supervised the stone work in the erection of the church could be mentioned for his out-

standing work as well as Bro. Denis Delaney who spent 44 years at St. Dominic's. Among the laymen of the parish who deserve special commendation is Mr. Thomas Gallaher who spent 30 years as sacristan.

Rev. George A. J. Wilson, O. P., 1852-6; 1863; 1866-7

Rev. Nicholas D. Young, O. P., 1853-72; 1878

Rev. Sydney A. Clarkson, O. P., 1853-7; 1876-80

Rev. Nicholas R. Young, O. P., 1856-60

Rev. John T. Nealis, O. P., 1858

Rev. Matthew McGrath, O. P., 1858-64

Rev. James V. Edelen, O. P., 1858; 1868-9; 1877-86

Rev. John A. Bokel, O. P., 1859-60; 1863-70; 1874-6; 1879-80; 1894-1902

Rev. Charles D. Bowling, O. P., 1860-64

Rev. Joseph A. Schuerman, O. P., 1860-2

Rev. Jeremiah P. Turner, O. P., 1860-2

Rev. Constantine L. Egan, O. P., 1862-5; 1872-3; 1892-3

Rev. Peter C. Coll, O. P., 1863-8; 1869-74; 1880-5

Rev. Stephen Byrne, O. P., 1864

Rev. John H. Lynch, O. P., 1864-66

Rev. Hugh P. Ralph, O. P., 1864-7

Rev. Bartholomew V. Carey, O. P., 1866-8

Rev. James A. Rooney, O. P., 1867-8

Rev. Michael D. Lilly, O. P., 1868-9

Rev. Moses B. Fortune, O. P., 1870-9

Rev. Thomas L. Power, O. P., 1871-8

Rev. Hugh F. Lilly, O. P., 1872; 1890-4

Rev. James A. Sheridan, O. P., 1874-8

Rev. Peter A. Dinahan, O. P., 1875-7; 1889-92; 1898-1902

Rev. Patrick A. Scannell, O. P., 1875-6

Rev. Edward D. Reville, O. P., 1877-9

Rev. John A. Rotchford, O. P., 1878-84

Rev. William A. Horgan, O. P., 1878-86

Rev. Francis A. Spencer, O. P., 1880-4; 1894-1913

Rev. John H. O'Connell, O. P., 1884; 1889-90

Rev. Edward D. Donnelly, O. P., 1884-89

Rev. Bernard F. Logan, O. P., 1884-90

Rev. William I. Rickarby, O. P., 1885-90

Rev. Martin P. Spalding, O. P., 1885-8

Rev. George A. Carr, O. P., 1885-6

Rev. William R. Dunn, O. P., 1886-7

Rev. Francis J. Dunn, O. P., 1887-91  
 Rev. Clement A. Splinter, O. P., 1888-9  
 Rev. James D. Fowler, O. P., 1888-90; 1919-22  
 Rev. Adolph A. Durkin, O. P., 1890-3  
 Rev. Michael A. McFeeley, O. P., 1890-4  
 Rev. Daniel R. Towle, O. P., 1891-2; 1894-5  
 Rev. William F. Linahan, O. P., 1892-4  
 Rev. Augustine I. Walsh, O. P., 1892-5  
 Rev. Hugh P. Conly, O. P., 1892-6  
 Rev. John A. Hinch, O. P., 1892-8; 1904-7  
 Rev. Edward P. DeCantillion, O. P., 1893-8  
 Rev. Joseph E. Kernan, O. P., 1893-1901  
 Rev. John C. Kent, O. P., 1894-7; 1900-3  
 Rev. Edward J. Farmer, O. P., 1895-7; 1898-1900; 1913-7; 1920  
 Rev. Sylverter R. Brockbank, O. P., 1896-7; 1934-7  
 Rev. John P. Vallely, O. P., 1896-1900  
 Rev. Timothy P. O'Rourke, O. P., 1897-1913  
 Rev. John P. Moran, O. P., 1897-1900  
 Rev. Moses R. Bloomer, O. P., 1898-1900  
 Rev. Joseph H. Slinger, O. P., 1900-5  
 Rev. James P. Spearing, O. P., 1900-4  
 Rev. John H. Ford, O. P., 1901-5  
 Rev. Richard J. Meaney, O. P., 1902-6; 1921-2  
 Rev. John B. Dawkins, O. P., 1903-5  
 Rev. Joseph R. Heffernan, O. P., 1903-6  
 Rev. John P. Egan, O. P., 1905-7  
 Rev. James B. Hegarty, O. P., 1906-7  
 Rev. Joseph T. Keelty, O. P., 1905-7  
 Rev. Bernard C. Murray, O. P., 1906-21; 1929-31  
 Rev. John R. Volz, O. P., 1907-8  
 Rev. Raphael A. LaPlante, O. P., 1907-8  
 Rev. John L. Finnerty, O. P., 1907-9  
 Rev. Michael J. Kennedy, O. P., 1907-13  
 Rev. John D. Wildenberg, O. P., 1908-20  
 Rev. John A. Cowan, O. P., 1909-47  
 Rev. Raymond Meagher, O. P., 1910-13; 1939 to now  
 Rev. George I. Conlon, O. P., 1913-20  
 Rev. Francis A. Gaffney, O. P., 1915-6; 1922  
 Rev. Jeremiah T. Fitzgerald, O. P., 1915-7  
 Rev. Peter T. McAllister, O. P., 1917-35  
 Rev. Vincent R. Burnell, O. P., 1917-21



Rev. Hubert H. Welsh, O. P., 1907-33  
 Rev. George B. Neitze, O. P., 1921-3  
 Rev. Raphael M. Burke, O. P., 1922-7; 1929-34  
 Rev. Stephen A. Gavin, O. P., 1923-6  
 Rev. Walter G. Scanlon, O. P., 1923-9  
 Rev. John J. Sullivan, O. P., 1926-8  
 Rev. William A. O'Connell, O. P., 1926-45  
 Rev. Francis D. Newman, O. P., 1928-31  
 Rev. Charles G. Moore, O. P., 1929-31  
 Rev. John J. Durkin, O. P., 1930-8  
 Rev. Thomas C. McGowan, O. P., 1930-2  
 Rev. William D. Noon, O. P., 1932-5  
 Rev. Robert P. Carroll, O. P., 1933-6  
 Rev. Owen E. Rocks, O. P., 1933-7  
 Rev. Adolph D. Frenay, O. P., 1933-6  
 Rev. John U. Cahill, O. P., 1935-6  
 Rev. William D. Marrin, O. P., 1936-41  
 Rev. Joseph F. Beever, O. P., 1936-8  
 Rev. Raymond J. Dewdney, O. P., 1937—to now  
 Rev. Camillus A. Musselman, O. P., 1937-41  
 Rev. James A. Fleming, O. P., 1938-41  
 Rev. Norbert M. Connell, O. P., 1938-40  
 Rev. James B. Heary, O. P., 1939-41  
 Rev. Bernard P. Shaffer, O. P., 1939-51  
 Rev. Walter P. Thamm, O. P., 1940-1  
 Rev. Edward D. Grady, O. P., 1940-1; 1945-7  
 Rev. Thomas A. Morrison, O. P., 1941-2  
 Rev. Daniel N. Hamilton, O. P., 1941-7  
 Rev. James F. McManus, O. P., 1941-3  
 Rev. Paul A. Elnen, O. P., 1942- to 1952  
 Rev. William J. Olson, O. P., 1943  
 Rev. Stuart B. Campbell, O. P., 1944-5  
 Rev. John T. Mulvin, O. P., 1945  
 Rev. John B. Conlon, O. P., 1945 (on leave as Chaplain to U.S.N.)  
 Rev. Francis X. Finnegan, O. P., 1946- to now  
 Rev. Edward S. Dorsey, O. P., 1947 (on leave as Chaplain to U.S.A.)  
 Rev. James B. McGroarty, O. P., 1947-8  
 Rev. Andrew M. Whelan, O. P., 1948- to now  
 Rev. George G. Maley, O. P., 1951- to now  
 Rev. Raymond King, O. P., 1952-

